

POPPO

10¢

of the **POPCORN** THEATRE

VOL. 1, NO. 9

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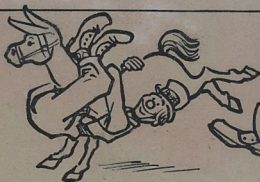
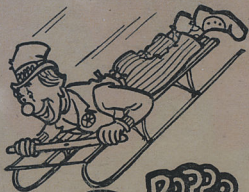
IF BAM FOLLOWS
BIFF, AND BANG FOLLOWS
BING, WHAT FOLLOWS
CHRISTMAS?

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



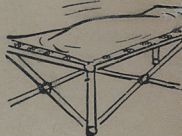


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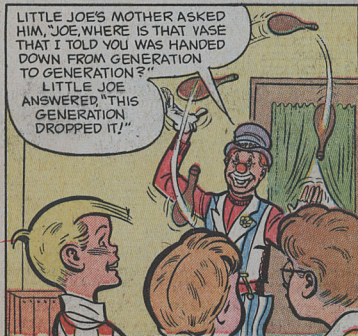


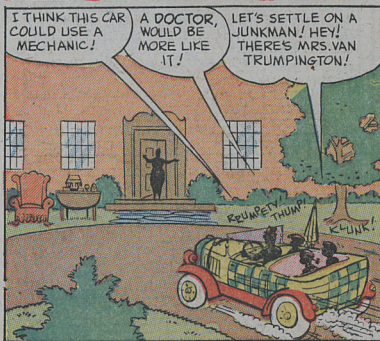
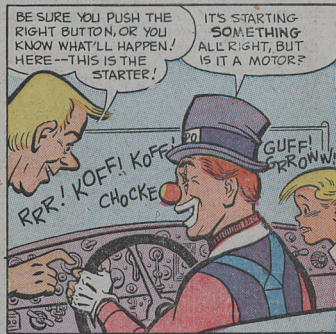
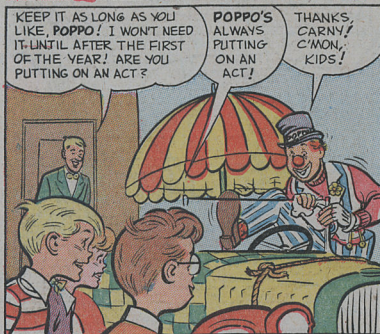
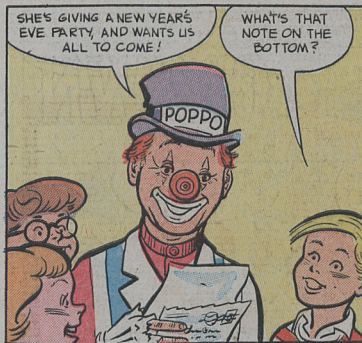
POPPO

—THE CLOWN—WHO "CAN'T HELP LIKING KIDS", HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD OVER PHOTOGRAPHING HIS ADVENTURES—THE GREAT ACTS THAT PLAYED ON THE SAME BILL—AND COLLECTING PRINTS OF THE CARTOONS AND COMEDIES THAT HE ENJOYED. BORN TO THE CIRCUS, AND THE JOY OF MAKING OTHERS LAUGH, HIDING HIS OWN SORROWS SO OTHERS MAY BE HAPPY, HE IS THE CLOWN OF ALL AGES—FOR ALL AGES. NOW HE HAS RETIRED FROM THE CIRCUS, BUT STILL FINDS HIS REWARDS IN LIFE MAKING OTHERS LAUGH.



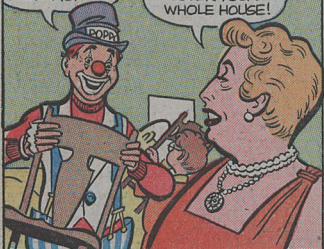
POPPO the CLOWN





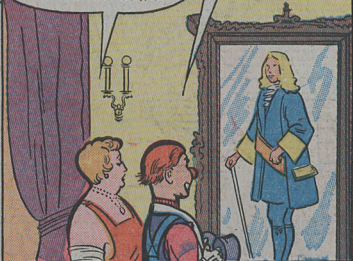
THIS IS SWELL, MA'AM, BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR ONE THING MORE! I'VE GOT A HOLE IN THE WALL, AND I NEED A BIG PICTURE!

I HAVE JUST THE THING! IT'S A DREARY OLD PORTRAIT BY VAN SOMEBODY! MISERABLE THING! AND IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO COVER YOUR WHOLE HOUSE!

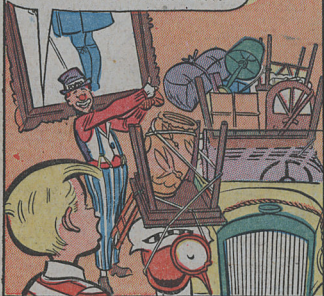


NOBODY HAS FLEMISH ANY MORE! IT'S IMPRESSIONISM, CUBISM, SURREALISM— THIS IS JUST GAUCHE AND OUTRÉ!

YESSUM, BUT IT'S KINDA PRETTY AND IT'LL COVER MY WALL JUST FINE!



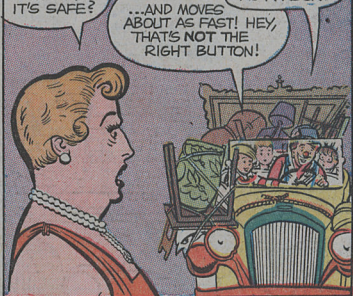
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THAT—IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT?



ARE YOU... ER... SURE IT'S SAFE?

DON'T WORRY—SHE'S SOUND AS A ROCK!

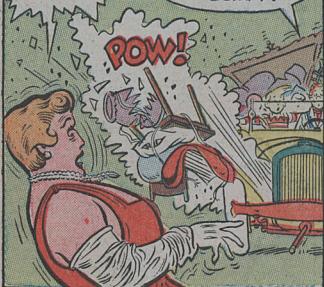
...AND MOVES ABOUT AS FAST! HEY, THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT BUTTON!



EEEEEE!!

IT SEEMS YOU WERE RIGHT, BUMPY!

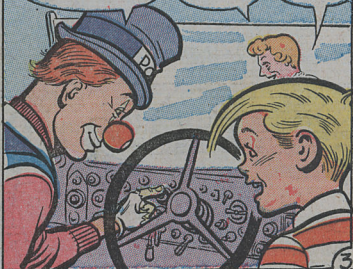
POW!

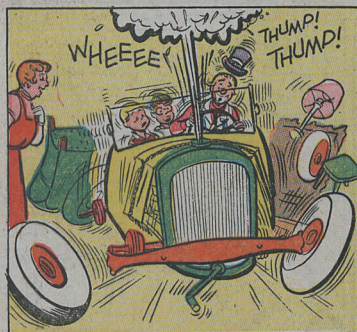
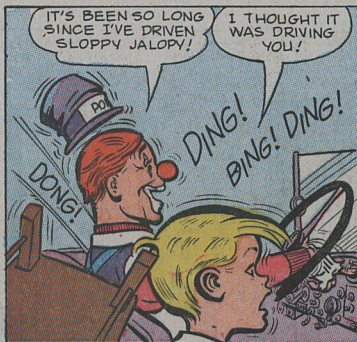


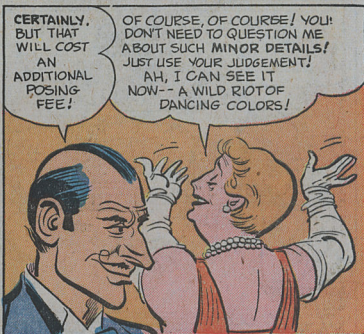
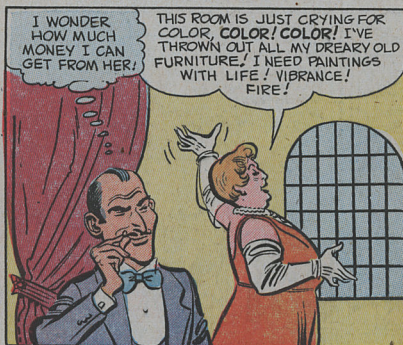
I'LL JUST GET HER STARTED, AND THEN WE CAN PILE EVERYTHING ON TOP!

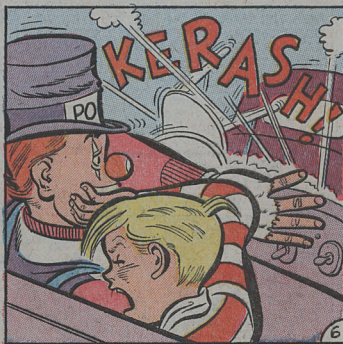
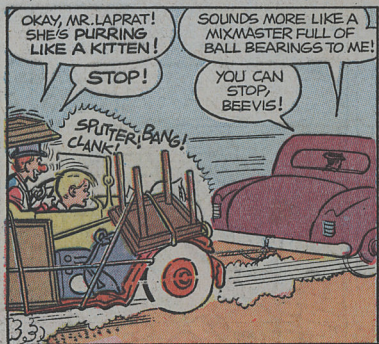
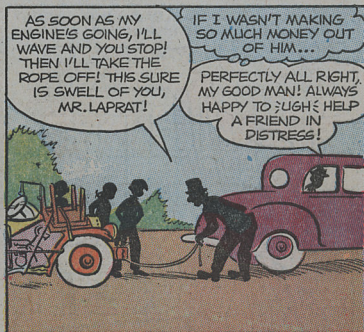
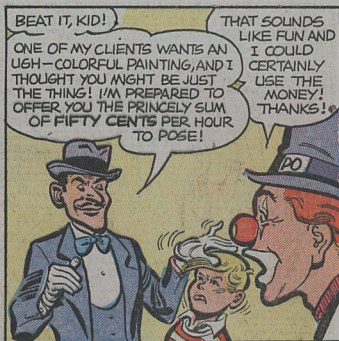
WAIT TILL I GET OUT OF RANGE!

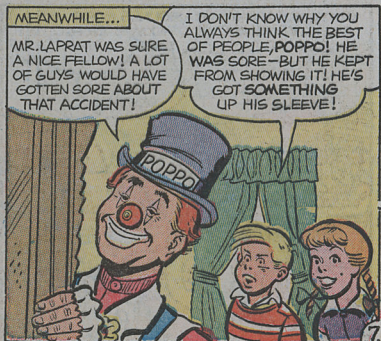
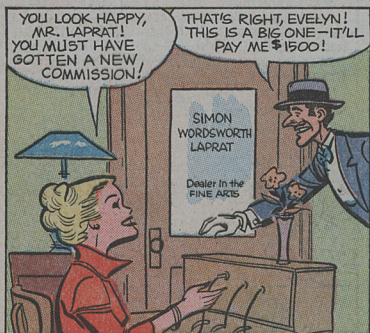
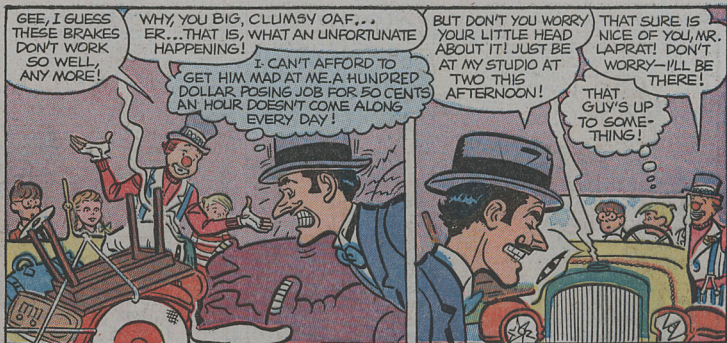
POPPO! THAT'S WRONG, TOO!











JUST REMEMBER, KIDS... THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS JUST AS THEY SEEM! TAKE THE FELLOW WHO KEPT BRAGGING ABOUT HOW BRAVE HIS BROTHER WAS! SAID HE'O PUNCHED THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP IN THE NOSE!



POPPO MUST FEEL GOOD! HE'S TELLING JOKES AGAIN!

ONE DAY SOMEBODY SAID HE'D LIKE TO SHAKE HANDS WITH A BRAVE MAN LIKE THAT. "YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK," THE BRAGGART SAID. "AT LEAST UNTIL HIS HAND IS OUT OF THE CAST!"



AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK! GEE WHILLIKERS, I'LL BET THE FELLOWS BACK AT THE CIRCUS NEVER THOUGHT I'D BECOME AN ARTIST'S MODEL!



WAIT POPPO! DON'T LEAVE US!

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, POPPO! STEP ON IT!



SORRY! WE DECIDED NOT TO RISK THE CAR THIS TIME, AND WALKED OVER!

HE DIDN'T MEAN TO STEP ON THAT!



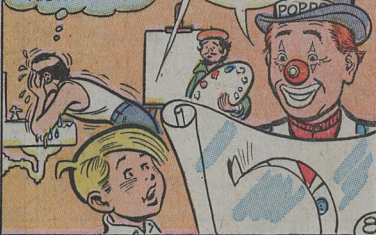
OOOPS! SORRY! SPLUFF!

GEE, I'M SORRY, MR. LAPRAT! HERE, LET ME WIPE IT OFF!



GET AWAY, YOU IDIOT!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M CURSED WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS! IF IT WASN'T FOR MY \$1,500 COMMISSION I'D TOSS HIM OUT RIGHT NOW!



WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

MR. LAPRAT'S GETTING IN KIND OF A BAD MOOD, AND I'M GOING TO CHEER HIM UP!

DO YOU LIKE THIS
PAINTING, MR. LAPRAT?
PRETTY REALISTIC,
HUH?

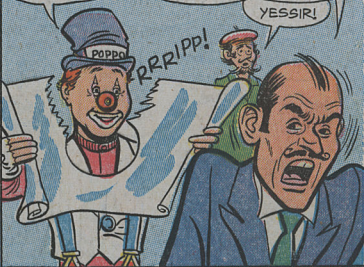
YIIII! THAT'S
IMPORTED CANVAS!
COSTS TEN DOLLARS
A YARD!
OH, NO!



IT WAS ONLY
PAPER, MR. LAPRAT!
SEE? IT WAS
ONLY A JOKE!

V..VERY F-FUNNY, I'M S-S-SURE!
NOW, WILL YOU GET STARTED ON
THAT PAINTING B-BEFORE I
COLLAPSE COMPLETELY?

YESSIR!



GEE! THESE
ARE PRETTY
GOOD! I'M
SURE THEY'RE
VALUABLE!

THEY'RE NOT NECESSARILY GOOD!
JUST BECAUSE LAPRAT SAYS SO!
LET'S SHOW 'EM TO POPPO!



SAY, THIS
IS
GOOD!

DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT? YOU'RE
NOT JUST SAYING THAT, ARE YOU?



OF COURSE NOT! HEY!!

IT'S YOURS! NOBODY EVER
WANTED MY PAINTINGS
BEFORE!

AND THERE'S A GOOD
REASON FOR THAT! THEY'RE
TRASH, NOT WORTH THE
CANVAS THEY'RE PAINTED
ON! GET TO WORK, OR
I'LL THROW YOU OUT
ON YOUR EAR!

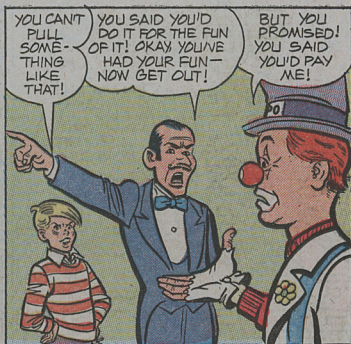
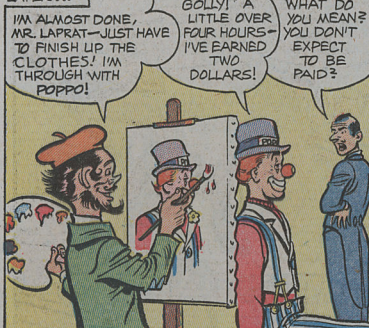


AND GET IT FINISHED BY TONIGHT,
OR YOU WON'T GET A PENNY! I'M
GETTING VERY LITTLE
FOR THIS JOB, AND I
MUST HAVE SPEED!

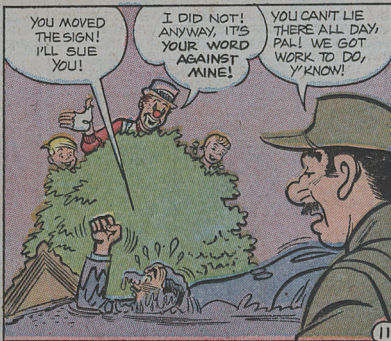
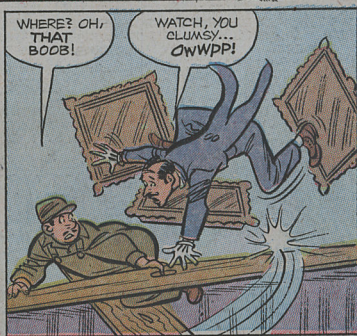
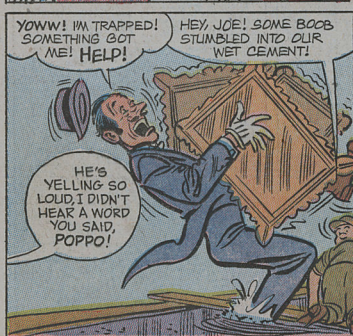
WHEW!
WHAT A
GROUCH!



LATER...



POPPO in "CAN GIVE, CAN'T TAKE"

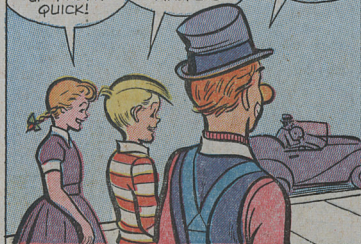


LATER...

THERE HE IS!
HE GOT CLEANED
UP PRETTY
QUICK!

TOO BAD HE
DIDN'T PARK
IN FRONT OF
A FIREPLUG!

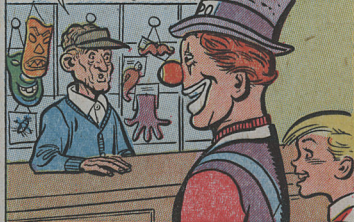
THAT GIVES
ME AN
IDEA!



CAN I
HELP
YOU?

YOU SURE CAN! WHERE DO YOU
KEEP YOUR FIREPLUGS?

MAGIC TRICKS - GAMES - NO

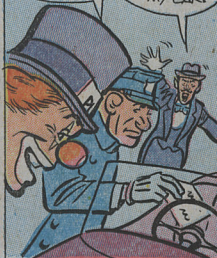


SAY, OFFICER
JONES! I DON'T
WANT TO GET
ANYBODY IN
TROUBLE, BUT
ISN'T HE A LITTLE
CLOSE
TO
THAT PLUG?

I'LL SAY HE
IS! I'LL
SHOW HIM
HE CAN'T
DISREGARD
THE
LAW!

SOME PEOPLE
ARE IN SUCH A
HURRY THAT THEY
DON'T EVEN LOOK
WHERE THEY'RE
PARKING...
TOO BAD...

HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
GET
AWAY
FROM
MY CAR!



THAT SURE IS A
TOUGH BREAK!
MR. LAPRAT!
THAT COST YOU
FIFTEEN
DOLLARS!

WHAT?

YOU SHOULD
BE MORE
CAREFUL,
MR. LAPRAT!

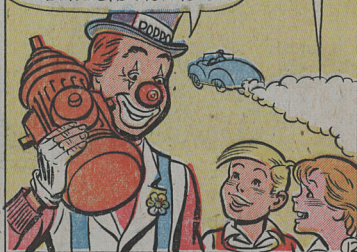


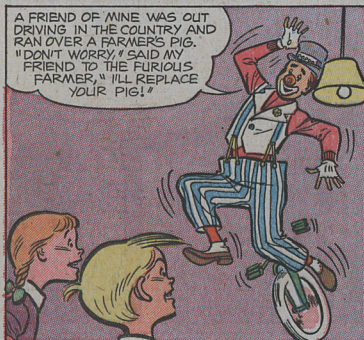
MORE CAREFUL, INDEED! POPPO'S BEHIND THIS,
AND I'M GOING TO GET EVEN...OR DIE IN THE
ATTEMPT!



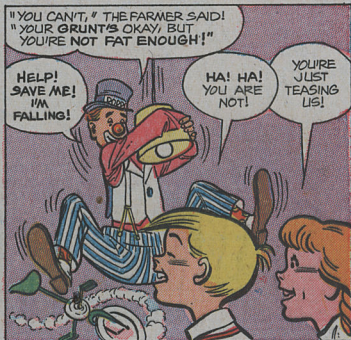
Y'KNOW, I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
IF YOU KIDS WANT TO COME BACK
TO MY PLACE, I
MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT ON A
LITTLE SHOW FOR YOU!

OH, BOY!
LET'S GO!





A FRIEND OF MINE WAS OUT DRIVING IN THE COUNTRY AND RAN OVER A FARMER'S PIG. "DON'T WORRY," SAID MY FRIEND TO THE FURIOUS FARMER, "I'LL REPLACE YOUR PIG!"



HELP! SAVE ME! I'M FALLING!

"YOU CAN'T," THE FARMER SAID! "YOUR GRUNT'S OKAY, BUT YOU'RE NOT FAT ENOUGH!"

HA! HA! YOU ARE NOT!

YOU'RE JUST TEASING US!



NOW HOW ABOUT A FEW MAGIC TRICKS! I HAVEN'T TAKEN A TURTLE OUT OF BUMPY'S EAR SINCE...

THERE HE IS! THERE'S THE CRIMINAL!

I'M AFRAID LAPRAT HAS BROUGHT SOME CHARGES AGAINST YOU, POPPO!



HE COMMITTED FRAUD! HE PUT A FAKE FIREPLUG IN FRONT OF MY CAR! HE'S GUILTY OF...OF...OF SOMETHING!

THAT'S A PRETTY WILD STORY! ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE! RIGHT, OFFICER?



WHAT'S HE LOOKING FOR?

BEATS ME!

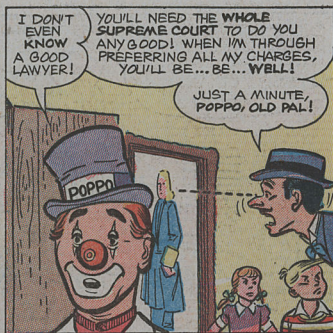
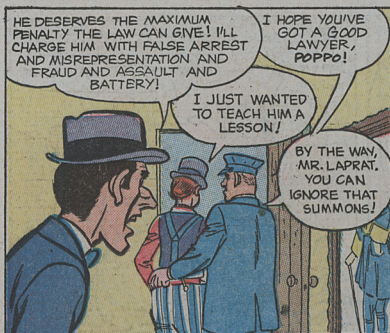
I'LL FIND IT! YOU JUST WAIT!

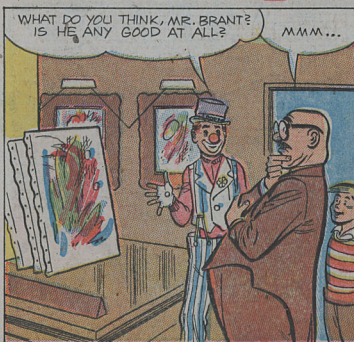
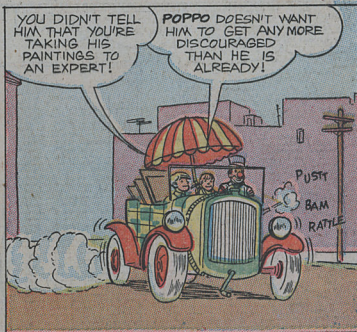
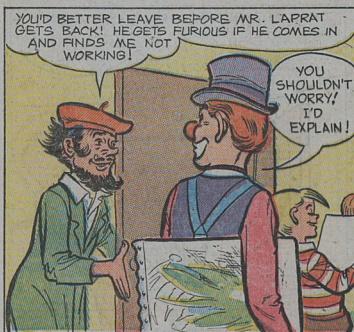


HERE IT IS! ARREST THAT MAN, OFFICER JONES! DO YOUR DUTY!

I'M SORRY, POPPO...

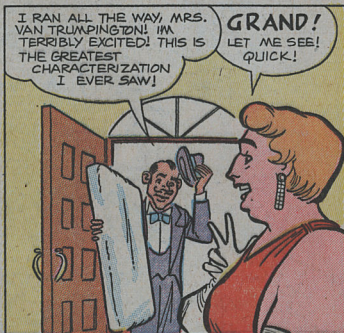
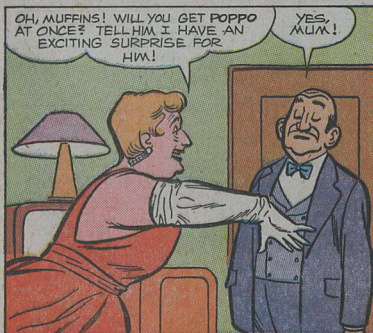
GULP!



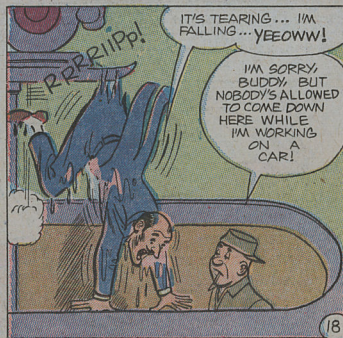
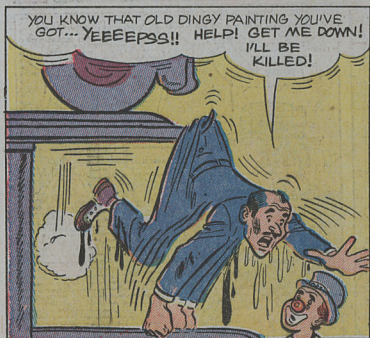
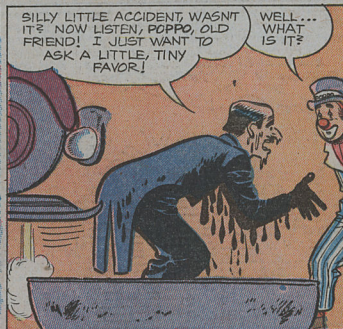
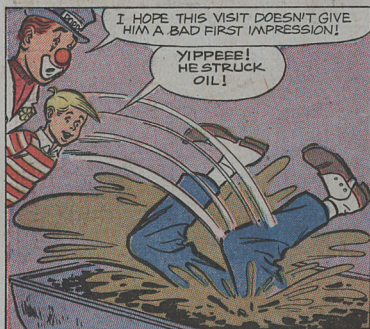
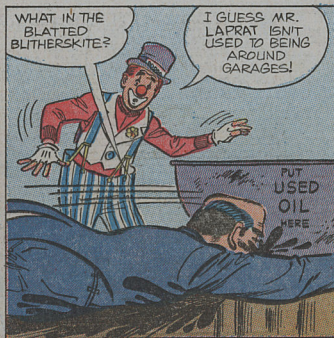


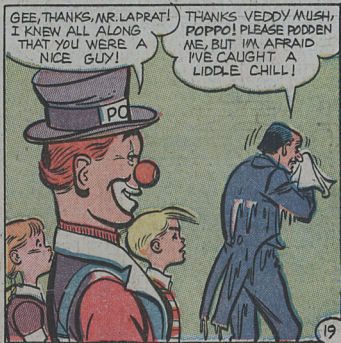
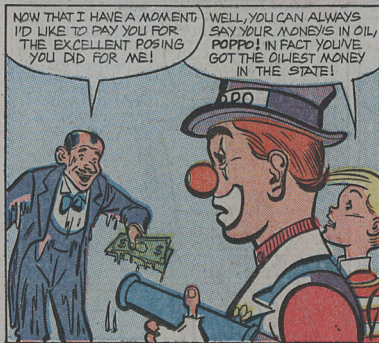
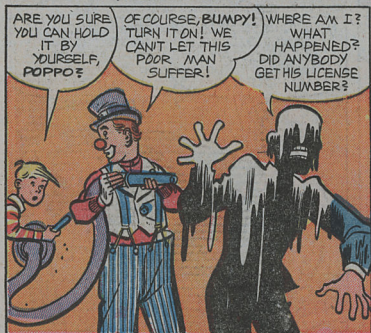
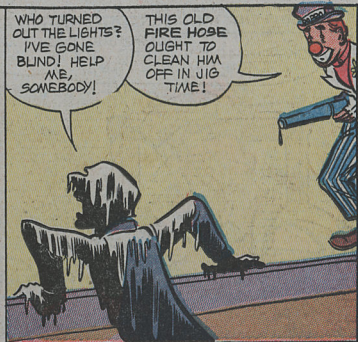
POPPO *in*

"BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW"



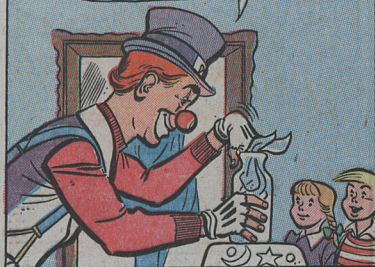




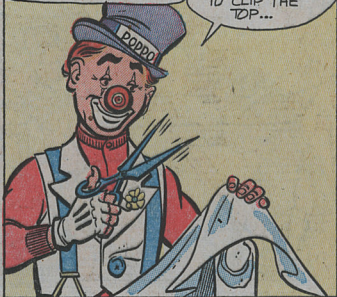


BACK IN THE THEATRE...

THANK YOU, BUMPY!
NOW I'LL JUST PUSH YOUR
HANDKERCHIEF DOWN INTO THE NECK OF THIS
ORDINARY MILK BOTTLE...



COVER IT UP WITH THIS CLOTH... SAY A FEW
MAGIC WORDS... GET A PAIR OF SCISSORS
TO CLIP THE
TOP...



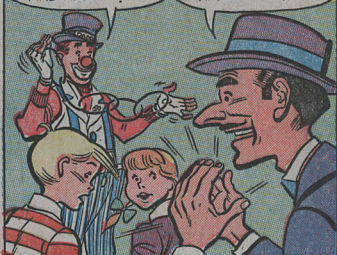
AND OUT IT COMES! OH DEAR! I'M SORRY,
BUMPY! SOMETHING SEEMS TO HAVE
GONE WRONG!



HA!
HA! HA!

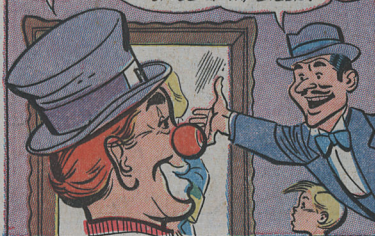
NOW, IN CASE YOUR EARS
ARE RINGING, DON'T
WORRY! I'VE GOT A WHOLE
TRUNKFUL OF RINGS
AND HERE...

HAW! HAW! WHAT
A TRICK! YOU'RE A
REAL ARTIST, POPPO,
OL' PAL! I'VE GOT TO
HAND IT TO YOU!



GEE, THANKS,
MR. LAPRAT!
IS THERE
ANYTHING I
CAN DO FOR
YOU?

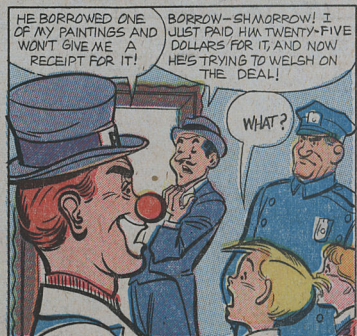
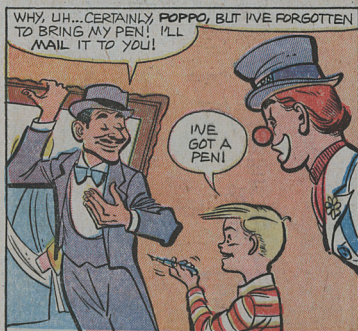
I... AH... JUST CAME OVER TO SEE
YOUR SHOW, BUT, NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT... UH... I WONDER IF I
COULD BORROW THAT PICTURE FOR
A FEW DAYS? I'M UH... HAVING SOME
ART DEALERS IN, AND WANT TO
DRESS UP MY STUDIO!

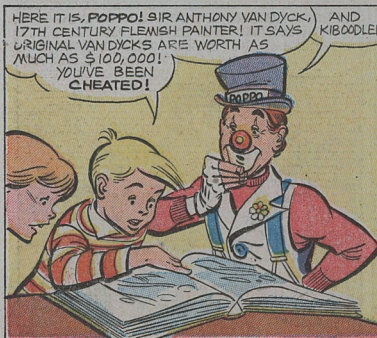
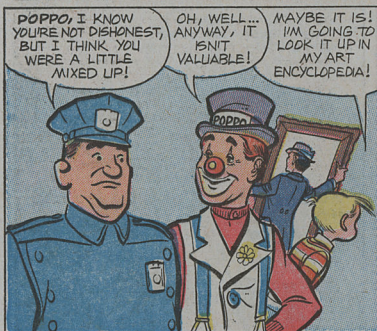


WHY, SURE! THIS IS JUST
AN OLD PAINTING THAT
ISN'T WORTH ANYTHING,
BUT IF YOU WANT TO
BORROW IT, YOU'RE
CERTAINLY
WELCOME!

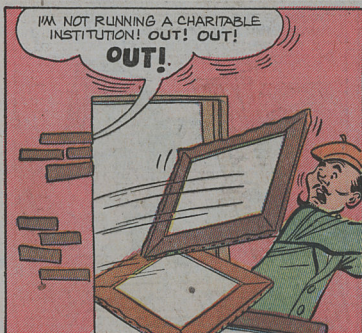
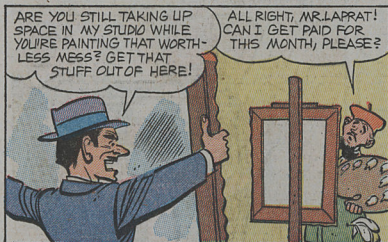
JUST AN OLD
PAINTING... HA! IT'S
PRICELESS... AND
NOW, IT'S GOING TO
BE MINE!
HA! HA! MINE!

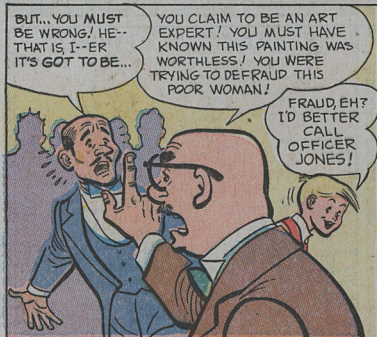
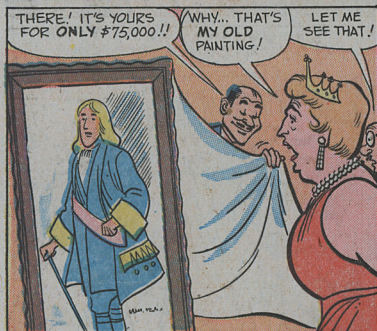


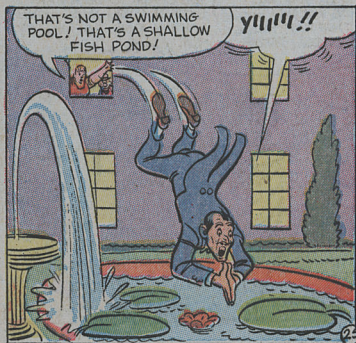
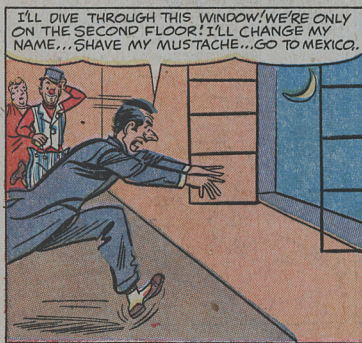
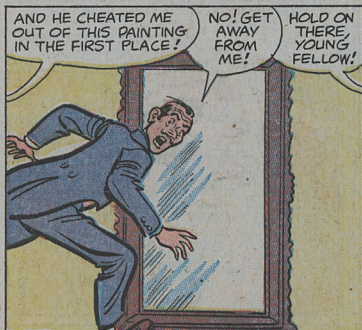
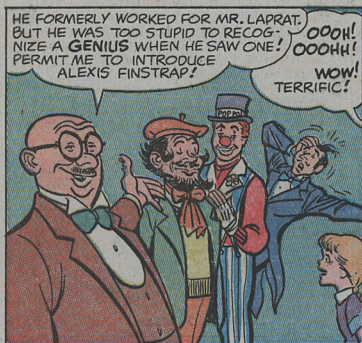


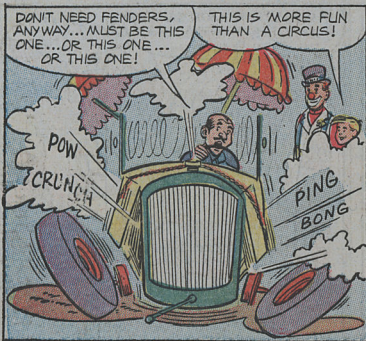
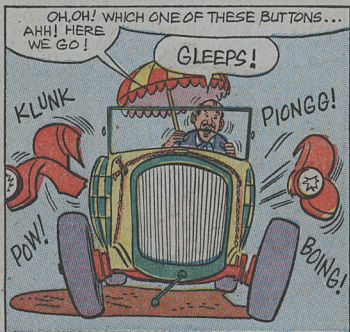
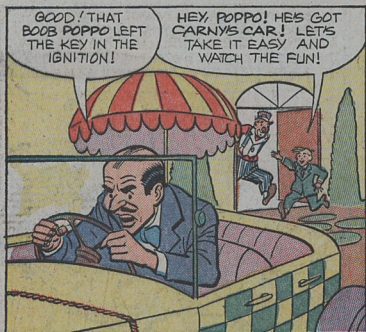


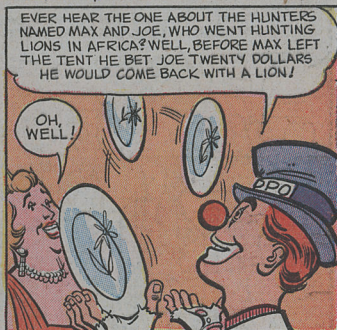
POPPO in "CRASHING in the NEW YEAR"

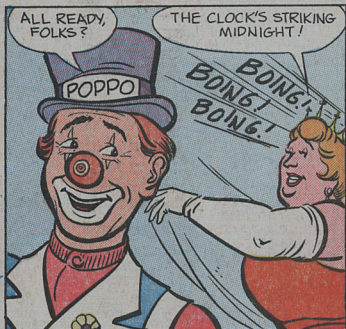
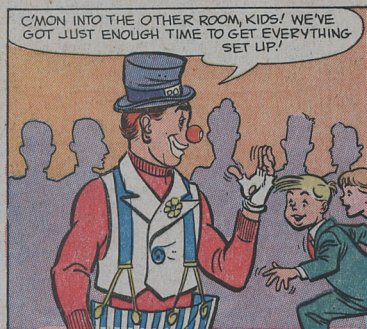
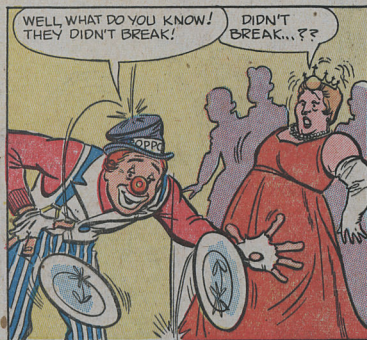












POPPO'S SOCKFUL of TRICKS

No 1

POPPO, HOW CAN YOU?

BUMPY AND GINGER, I CAN STAND BOTH OF YOU ON THIS NEWSPAPER ON THE FLOOR, FACING EACH OTHER! AND YET YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE OR EVEN TOUCH EACH OTHER!

THIS IS A CATCH TRICK WITH WHICH YOU CAN FOOL A LOT OF PEOPLE! AFTER EVERYONE HAS TOLD YOU IT CAN'T BE DONE, YOU SHOW THEM HOW IT CAN! LAY THE NEWSPAPER THROUGH A DOORWAY. HAVE ONE PERSON STAND ON ONE END OF THE PAPER. THEN CLOSE THE DOOR. THEN STAND THE OTHER PERSON ON THE OPPOSITE END. NEITHER ONE CAN SEE OR TOUCH THE OTHER, JUST AS YOU SAID!

I CALL THIS THE TRICK OF THE BEWITCHED MATCHES! PLACE 5 OR 6 MATCHES IN THE CENTER OF A BOWL OF WATER, LIKE THIS. THEN SHARPEN A PIECE OF SOAP TO A POINT! GET A LUMP OF SUGAR, TOO!

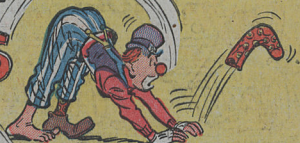
NOW TRY THIS ONE! ROLL UP A PIECE OF BLUE PAPER AND PUT IT IN A MATCH-BOX. MARK THE END OF THE DRAWER WITH A BLUE PENCIL AND CLOSE THE BOX. ROLL UP A PIECE OF RED PAPER AND PUT IT IN THE OTHER BOX. MARK THE END OF THIS DRAWER WITH A RED PENCIL. SET THE BOXES ON A TABLE, PASS YOUR HAND OVER THEM, THEN OPEN THEM!

DIP THE POINT OF THE SOAP BETWEEN THE MATCHES. THE MATCHES WILL DASH TO THE EDGES OF THE BOWL! NOW PLACE THE LUMP OF SUGAR IN THE CENTER OF THE BOWL. THE MATCHES WILL RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION!

THE BLUE PAPER WILL BE IN THE BOX WITH THE RED MARK, AND THE RED PAPER IN THE BOX MARKED BLUE! ---SECRET: YOU PREVIOUSLY MARKED THE OPPOSITE ENDS OF EACH DRAWER WITH THE OPPOSITE COLOR! IN PICKING UP THE BOXES, TURN THEM AROUND, SO THESE MARKS WILL CORRESPOND WITH THE COLORED PAPER BALLS INSIDE THE BOXES!

SOCKFUL of TRICKS

NO. 2



TO DO THIS TRICK, I STAND A WRAPPED LUMP OF SUGAR ON TOP OF THE TABLE! WITH MY LEFT HAND, I REACH UNDER THE TABLE. NOW I'M GOING TO HIT THAT LUMP OF SUGAR AS HARD AS I CAN!

SMACKO!

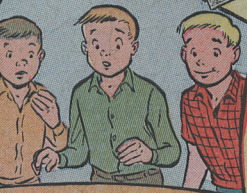
THE LUMP OF SUGAR MUST HAVE GONE RIGHT THROUGH THE TABLE! THERE IT IS IN POPPO'S LEFT HAND, WHILE WRAPPER IS EMPTY!

SECRET: POPPO HAD TAKEN OUT THE SUGAR AND PUT THE CLOSED UP EMPTY WRAPPER BACK IN THE SUGAR BOWL IN ADVANCE! THE ACTUAL LUMP WAS IN THE LEFT HAND ALL THE TIME! FOR ADDED EFFECT, A HALF-FULL GLASS OF WATER CAN BE STEADIED ON TOP OF THE EMPTY WRAPPER, WITHOUT CRUMPLING IT! THEN PUSH DOWN ON THE GLASS, HARD!

WHAT DO YOU FELLAS MAKE OF THAT CRAZY GOLF BALL? IT KEEPS ROLLING RIGHT ACROSS A FLAT, LEVEL TABLE! IS IT ALIVE? EXAMINE IT, SOMEBODY!

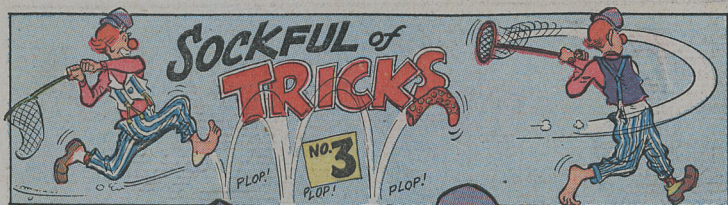
SEE THIS ACE OF HEARTS, BUMPY? I'LL TOSS IT FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR! THERE! PUT YOUR FOOT ON IT! NOW TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF AND LOOK AT THE CARD!

POPPO!
IT'S THE
ACE OF
SPADES!



UNDER THE TABLECLOTH IS A SMALL RING ATTACHED TO A THREAD! POPPO SETS THE BALL ON THE HIDDEN RING. THE KID IN THE CHECKERED SHIRT IS IN ON THE TRICK AND IS SECRETLY PULLING THE THREAD, ROLLING THE BALL ALONG!

POPPO HAS THE ACE OF SPADES IN HIS HAND UNDER THE ACE OF HEARTS. IN THROWING, HIS FINGERS WORK THE ACE OF SPADES FORWARD, SO IT FALLS TO THE FLOOR. HIS THROWING HAND SLIPS THE PACK IN THE OTHER HAND, LEAVING THE ACE OF HEARTS ON TOP...



THIS, BUMPY, IS MY SCIENTIFIC PENNY! IT'S GLUED TO A THREAD AND WHEN I HOLD IT OVER A BOYS HAND, IT SWINGS STRAIGHT BACK AND FORTH!

BUT OVER A GIRL'S HAND, IT SWINGS IN A CIRCLE!

THAT'S FUNNY! WHAT'S THE SECRET?

THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY SECRET TO THIS ONE. DON'T TRY TO FORCE THE PENNY TO SWING... JUST THINK "CIRCLE" WITH A GIRL AND "STRAIGHT LINE" WITH A BOY, AND THE COIN WILL OPERATE ITSELF!

NOW HERE'S A GENEROUS OFFER! IF YOU CAN TEAR THIS SHEET OF PAPER INTO FOUR EQUAL PIECES, I'LL GIVE YOU A QUARTER!

WELL! SOMEBODY AT THE BOTTLE WORKS WAS ALL MIXED UP! THE LABEL IS ON THE INSIDE!

TEARING THE PAPER INTO FOUR EQUAL PARTS IS EASY! POPPO EXAMINES THE PIECES, SAYS, "YEP, YOU DID IT! HERE'S YOUR QUARTER!" AND HANDS OVER ONE OF THE PIECES, WHICH IS A QUARTER OF THE SHEET OF PAPER!

THIS ISN'T REALLY A TRICK, BUT IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR A LAUGH! SOAK THE LABEL FROM A BOTTLE, ROLL IT AROUND A PENCIL, AND POKE IT INTO THE BOTTLE, PARTLY FULL OF WATER AND LYING ON ITS SIDE. SLOWLY POUR THE WATER FROM THE BOTTLE AND THE LABEL WILL ATTACH ITSELF TO THE LOWER INNER SIDE!



SOCKFUL of TRICKS



NO. 4

HOW MANY OF YOU FIGURED OUT THE "MYSTERIOUS LETTER" TRICK I SHOWED YOU LAST WEEK?

REMEMBER GINGER WROTE AN INITIAL ON A LUMP OF SUGAR AND PUT IT UPSIDE DOWN ON THE TABLE.



I DROPPED THE SUGAR INTO A GLASS OF WATER, AND TOLD HER TO CLOSE HER FIST.



AFTER THE SUGAR WAS PARTLY DISSOLVED, I TOLD HER TO OPEN HER FIST, AND ON THE PALM OF HER HAND WAS THE INITIAL, JUST THE WAY SHE WROTE IT!

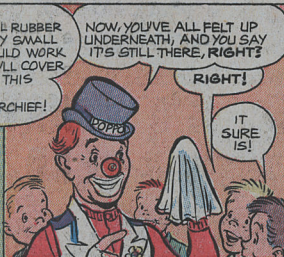


THEN, I HELD THE GLASS OVER HER FIST.

NOW, HERE'S HOW! I MOISTENED MY THUMB ON THE DAMP GLASS...WHEN I PICKED UP THE SUGAR, I PRESSED MY DAMP THUMB AGAINST THE INITIAL BEFORE DROPPING IT INTO THE GLASS. THIS LEFT A PRINT OF THE INITIAL ON MY THUMB. WHEN I HELPED GINGER CLOSE HER HAND INTO A FIST, MY THUMB PRESSED AGAINST HER PALM, AND PRINTED THE INITIAL. NOW YOU KNOW THE SECRET. TRY IT!!



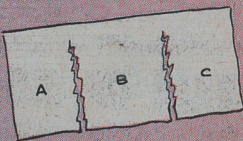
HERE'S A SMALL RUBBER BALL, BUT ANY SMALL OBJECT WOULD WORK AS WELL. I'LL COVER IT WITH THIS BIG HANDKERCHIEF!



NOW, YOU'VE ALL FELT UP UNDERNEATH, AND YOU SAY IT'S STILL THERE, RIGHT?

RIGHT!

IT SURE IS!



TEAR AN OBLONG PIECE OF PAPER INTO THREE CONNECTED FLAPS AS IN THE DIAGRAM. CHALLENGE ANYONE TO HOLD THE PAPER BY FLAP A AND FLAP C, AND TEAR THEM BOTH AWAY FROM THE CENTER FLAP B AT THE SAME TIME. DOES IT SOUND EASY? IT CAN'T BE DONE! TRY IT.



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.

AGAIN, POPPO USES A HELPER. THE LAST PERSON TO REACH UNDERNEATH REMOVES THE BALL. WHEN POPPO DRAPES THE HANDKERCHIEF OVER HIS EMPTY HAND, HIS PAL REACHES UNDER (LAST AGAIN) AND PUTS THE BALL BACK.



SAY! DID YOU KNOW I HAVE ELEVEN FINGERS?

1, 2, 3, 4, 5!



6, 7, 8, 9, 10! ???



THAT'S FUNNY! I WAS SURE IT WAS ELEVEN! LET'S TRY AGAIN.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6...



AND FIVE MORE MAKES ELEVEN!

KIDS!

See and hear me every week

ON T.V.

Tune in

Poppo

"THE POPCORN THEATRE"

a full hour of fun with POPPO, cartoons,
comedies and adventure!

**RAIN OR SHINE, IT'S ALWAYS TIME
TO CURL UP WITH A GOOD
POPPO FUNNYBOOK!**



